

ARTICLES

O F

VISITATION and ENQUIRY

Concerning MATTERS

Ecclesiasticall:

EXHIBITED

To the Ministers, Church-wardens and Side-men

of every Parish within the

DIOCESS of OXON.

In the first EPISCOPAL VISITATION

Within the said Diocese

OF THE

Right Reverend Father in God

ROBERT

By Divine Providence

Lord BISHOP of OXON.

Oxford Printed by William Hall Ann. Dom. 1662.



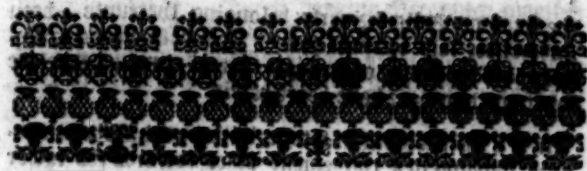
ARTICLES

The Tenor of the Oath to be Administred to the
Church-wardens, and Sidemen, of every
Parish.

YOU shall Swear that you will Faithfully
execute the Office of a Church-warden
within your Parish, and after diligent en-
quiry, make a true Answer to every Article in this Book
now given you in Charge, and to present all Inhabitants
within your Parish that have done any Offence, or omit-
ted any Duty therein mentioned. And this you shall
doe uprightly and truly, without Favour or Malice, hope
of Reward or feare of Displeasure. So help You GOD.

ROBERT

Printed by William Hall at the Dove in the Strand 1687.



ARTICLES

O R

VISITATION and ENQUIRY

Within the

DIOCES of OXON.

TITUL. I.

Concerning Churches and Chappels, with the Ornaments and Furniture thereto belonging.

I. **I** S your Parish Church or Chappel kept in good and sufficient repair? Are the Roofs thereof well covered with Lead, Tile, or Slate; the Windows well glazed, the Floor well paved, the Seats well fastned, and conveniently placed; and all things so decently ordered, as becometh the house of God?

II. **HATH** the Steeple, or Tower of your Church or Chappel, or any part thereof, been pulled down, or any of the

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the Lead of Wells formerly belonging thereunto, been imbezelled, sold or made away? In whose hands or Custody both the same, or any part thereof remain? Declare what you know, or have heard herein.

III. IS there a Font of Stone, with a good Cover thereunto, standing in a convenient place towards the lower part of your Church, for the Administration of Baptism? And is there in your Chancel, a decent Communion Table, for the Administration of the Lords Supper, with a Carpet of Silk, Rug, or fine Woollen-cloth, and another Covering of white and pure Linnen, to spread thereupon? And have you a fair Communion-Cup, or Chalice, with a Cover of silver, and one or more Flagons of silver, or pewter, thereunto belonging?

IV. HAVE you in your said Church, or Chappel, a convenient Seat, or Pew, for your Minister to read Divine Service in? A Pulpit, with a comely Cloth or Cushion for the same? A Bible, of the last Translation, in a large Volume, and the Book of Common-Prayer, both well and substantially bound? Have you likewise the Book of Homilies, set forth by Authority? And a Printed Table of the Degrees wherein Marriage is prohibited?

V. HAVE you a comely large Surplice for the Minister to wear at all times of his Publick Ministration, in the Church, provided, and to be duly washed at the Charge of the Parish?

VI. HAVE you a Register Book of Parchment, wherein to Register the Names and Surnames of all such persons as are Married, Christened, or Buried, within your Parish: together with the Names and Surnames of both the Parents of the Children so Christened, expressing the day, month, and year of all such Christenings, Marriages, and Burials? And is the transcript thereof yearly, within one Month next after the 25 of March, brought into the Bishops Registry?

VII. HAVE you also another Book where in
to

to write down the Church-wardens Accounts; together with a strong Chest with Locks and Keys, wherein to keep the aforesaid Books, and all other the aforementioned Furniture in safe Custody? And lastly, have you a Bier, with a black Hearst-cloth, for the Burial of the Dead?

TIT. II.

*Concerning the Church-yard, the Houses, Glebe,
and Tithes, belonging to the Church.*

I. **I**S your Church-yard sufficiently fenced with Walls or Rails, or Pales; and decently kept from youth and from childrens playing there, and all manner of prophanation & uncleanness, from the annoyance of Swine, Horses, and other Cattel? Hath any person encroached upon the same? or made any doze into it, out of his own ground or habitation, without allowance from the Ordinary? Have any Trees there growing been cut down? how long since? by whom? and to whose use and benefit?

II. **I**S the House of your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, (with all the out-houses thereunto belonging) kept in good and sufficient repair? Or, have any of the said Houses, or Out-houses, been defaced or pulled down without licence from the Ordinary? and by whom? Hath any person encroached upon any Garden, Park, or Close, belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage house? or cut up any Trees growing thereon? or changed or removed the ancient Parks and Bounds of the same?

III. **H**AVE you a true and perfect Terrar of all the Glebe-lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements, or Cottages, belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage? As also a note of such Pensions, Rate-tithes, and Portions of Tithes, or other yearly Profits (either within

or without your Parish) as belong therunto? Have any of the same been withheld from your Minister? and by whom? as you know or have heard?

VI. HAVE any of the Antient Glebe-lands belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage, been taken away, or exchanged for other, without the free consent of the Incumbent, and licence from the Ordinary? Have any Inclosures been made in your Parish, to the detriment of the Church, by the decay of Tillage, and converting Arable Land into Pasture? by whom hath the same been made? and how many years since: and how much is your Parsonage or Vicarage diminished thereby in the yearly value thereof; as you know, believe, or have heard?

TIT. III.

Concerning Ministers.

I. IS your Minister a Priest or Deacon, Episcopally Ordained, according to the Laws of the Church of England?

II. IS he defamed or suspected to have obtained either his Benefice or Orders, by any Simonical compact?

III. HATH he been legally Instituted and Inducted into his Benefice? and did he within two months after his Induction, publicly in the Church, upon some Sunday or Holy-day, in the time of Divine Service, read the 39 Articles of the Church of England, established by Authority, and there publicly declare his assent therunto?

IV. HATH he any other Ecclesiastical Benefice, Prebend, or Dignity? Is he constantly resident upon his Benefice amongst you? How many weeks in any one year hath he been absent from it, without urgent necessity?

V. HATH

V. HATH your Minister a Curate to assist him? Is the said Curate in Holy Orders: an able and discreet person, and conformable to the Latins and Orders of the Church of England? Is he allowed by the Bishop to serve in your Church or Chappel? and doth he serve in any other Church beside? and what yearly Stipend doth your Minister allow him?

VI. DOTH your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, in reading the daily Morning and Evening Service, Administration of the holy Sacraments, Celebration of Marriage, Churching of Women after Childbirth, Visitation of the Sick, Burial of the Dead, and pronouncing Gods Communion against impenitent Sinners, use the form and words prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer, without any addition, omission, or alteration of the same? And doth he use all such Rites and Ceremonies in all parts of Divine Service, as are appointed in the said Book?

VII. DOTH your Minister at the Reading or Celebrating any Divine Office in your Church or Chappel, wear the Surplice, together with such other Scholasticall Habit as is suitable to his degree?

VIII. DOTH he observe the Holy-days and Fasting-days, as also the Quarter weeks, and the yearly Perambulation in Rogation-week, as in the Common-Prayer-book, or by the Ecclesiastical Canons is appointed: giving notice to the Parishioners of every of the same in the Church, in the time of Divine Service upon the Sunday next before?

IX. HATH your Minister been licensed to Preach by the Bishop, or either of the two Universities? If so; Doth he then constantly (unless in case of sickness, necessary absence, or other reasonable impediment) himself preach in your Church or Chappel, one Sermon every Sunday? Or if he be not a Licensed Preacher, or being so Licensed be hindered by sickness, or other wise, as aforesaid; doth he procure a Sermon to be so preached by some other Minister, a Licensed Preacher, or one of the Parson or Vicar by Authority to be there read by a Priest or Deacon lawfully Ordained?

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X. DOTH your Minister diligently instruct the youth of your Parish, in the Church Catechism? and doth he prepare and present them, being so instructed, to be Confirmed by the Bishop? And doth he endeavour to reclaim all Popish Recusants and other Heretics (if any such be inhabiting within your Parish) to the true Religion established in the Church of England, and to their bounden duty in obeying the Lawes, and submitting to the Government thereof?

XI. DOTH he neglect to visit the Sick, or delay the Baptism of any Infant that is in danger of death? Is there any Child past Infancy, or other person of more years, through your Ministers default, yet remaining unbaptized in your Parish? Doth he baptize any without Godfathers and Godmothers; or admit either of the Parents to be Godfather or Godmother to their own Children?

XII. DOTH he in his Sermons preach sound Doctrine tending to the edification of the people in the knowledge and faith of Jesus Christ, and obedience to Gods holy Commandments: or hath he at any time (as you know or have heard) preached any False, Heretical, Seditious, or Schismatical Doctrine, thereby to seduce the people into parties and factions, to the disturbance of the publick peace and unity either of Church or State?

XIII. HATH he presumed to Sperry any persons in private houses? or such as, being under age, have not the consent of their Parents, or without the Wances first published on three Sundays or Holy-days in the Church: or at other hours then between Eight and Twelue in the Morning? unless he had a License of Dispensation so to do?

XIV. DOTH any person preach in your Parish as a Lecturer? Hath he allowance from the Bishop for so doing: Doth he before his Lecture, read Divine Service, according to the Book of Common Prayer: and is he in all respects conformable to the Lawes and Orders of the Church of England?

XV. Hath your Minister taken upon him to appoint any publick or private Fasts, Prophecypings or Exercises, not appointed by Authority? or doth he, or any other,

either

either Minister or Lay person, hold any Conventicles or Meetings in private houses within your Parish for people of several Families to resort unto, under the pretence of Preaching, Praying, Thanksgiving or Humiliation, contrary to the Lawes and Canons in that case provided?

XVI. IS your Parson, Vicar, Curate or Lecturer, a man of a sober, unblamable, and exemplary life? Doth he familiarly converse with ungodly, vicious, and excommunicate persons? Is he a frequenter of Taverns, or Ale-houses? a common Gamester? a prophane or obscene Jestor? a Swearer, Railer, Scoffer, or Quarellor? Doth he set Neighbours at variance one with another? or encourage them to Suits and Contention? Is he noted to be an intemperate Drinker? or vehemently suspected of Incontinency with any person, either within your Parish, or without? Doth he wear his hair of an immoderate or uncomely length? Is his apparel grave and decent, both for fashion and colour, as the Canons of the Church require? Or is his Carriage and Conversation, in any kind whatsoever, Disorderly or Scandalous, and unbeseeming a Minister of Jesus Christ?

T I T. IV.

Concerning the Parishioners.

I. IS there in your Parish any person a known or reputed Heretick or Schismatick? any Baptist, Familist, Anabaptist, Quaker or other Sectary that refuse to come unto the publick Assemblies, prayers or services of the Church, or that make profession of any other Religion then what is established in the Church of England? and if there be any such, present them by their Names?

II. IS there any person in your Parish, that lyeth under a common fame, or vehement suspicion of Adultery, Fornication,

Fornication or Incest? Are there any common drunkards within your Parish, or common swearers, or blasphemers of Gods name, or any that are noted to be railers, unclean or filthy talkers, or fowlers of sedition, faction, and discord amongst their neighbours?

III. DO any of your Parish upon the Sundays or Holydaies, follow their bodily and ordinary labour? or permit their servants so to do? are any shops kept open or wares sold? or do any Winners, Inns-keepers, or other victuallers and sellers of Beer or Ale, suffer any persons to tipple or game in their houses upon those daies?

IV. DO TH every person inhabiting or sojourning within your Parish, duly resort unto your Church or Chappel, upon every Sunday and Holyday appointed for divine service? Do they then and there abide quietly with reverence, order and decency, during all the whole time of Common Prayer, Preaching, or other service of God there used? and are there any among you that come only to the Preaching, and not to the Common-Prayers of the Church?

V. DO TH every person reverently uncover his head, and so continue all the time of Divine Service and Sermon in the Church? Do they all reverently kneel at the Papers, and stand up when the Creed and Gospel are read, making due reverence when the name of our Lord Jesus is mentioned?

VI. ARE there any in your Parish that refuse to send their Infant-children to be baptized publicly in the Church, unless in case of urgent danger; in which case, the child may be baptized at home by a lawful Minister, after the form and rites appointed in the Liturgy? Or do they send them to be baptized in any other Parishes, or after other form then is appointed? Or do they keep them unbaptized any longer time then the Church alloweth? And are there any Infants, or more aged persons in your Parish as yet unbaptized?

VII. DO TH every Householder in your Parish cause their children and servants to learn their Catechism, and to give an account thereof unto your Minister, as he shall require it of them openly in the Church upon Sundays and Holydaies, as in the Book of Common-Prayer

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is appointed: that when they are well instructed in the same, they may be confirmed by the Bishop.

VIII. IS there any person in your Parish who being 16. years of age, and well instructed in Religion, doth not receive the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, at least three times in the year, of which Easter is alwayes to be one? Doth any in your Parish refuse to receive the same kneeling? or from the hands of your own Minister, repairing for it to other Parishes and Ministers abroad? Or are there any strangers not of your Parish, that forsake their own Churches, and usually repair to yours for it?

IX. HAVE you among you any that be denounced and declared excommunicate for any crime committed? How long have they been so excommunicated? And do any of your Parish keep society with them before they be reconciled to the Church, and absolved?

X. ARE there any living in your Parish who have been unlawfully married contrary to the laws of God? Or any that being lawfully divorced have married again? Or any that being lawfully married, and not separated or divorced by course of law, do not cohabit together?

XI. ARE there any married women in your Parish, who after their delivery from the peril of Child-birth, refuse to make their publick thanksgiving to God in the Church? And when they come so to do, do they come decently apparelled, and make their offerings according to custom?

XII. ARE there any belonging to your Parish, who refuse to pay their duty for Easter offerings to your Minister? Or any that refuse to contribute, and pay the rate assessed upon them, for the repair of your Church or Chapel, and for the providing of such books, furniture and ornaments, as be requisite for the performance of all divine offices there?

XIII. DO any refuse to bury their dead according to the rites of the Church of England? And are there any wills or Testaments, of persons dead in your Parish, that be perjured? Or any goods administered, without a due grant from the Ordinary? Did any living in your Parish or else where, leave any Legacy to your Church or Chapel, or the use of the poor, or to any other pious and

charitable purposes: What were those Legacies, and how have they been bestowed?

XIV. DO you know, or have you heard, of any Patron or other person in your Parish, having the presentation or gift of any Ecclesiastical benefice, who hath made gain there of by presenting a Clerk or Minister to it upon any bargain, either for money or pension, or lease, reserbe of Tithes or Glebe, or any part thereof, or upon other Simoniackal compact whatsoever?

XV. IS there any strife and contention among any of your Parish for their Pews or Seats in your Church? Have any new Pews been erected in your Chancel, or in the Body of your Church or Chappel without leave from the Ordinary?

TIT. V.

Concerning Parish-Clerks, and Sextons.

1. HAVE you belonging to your Church or Chappel, a Parish Clerk, aged 21 years at the least? Is he of honest life and conversation? and sufficient or able to perform his duty in reading, writing, and singing? Is he chosen by your Minister, and doth he duly attend him in all Divine Services at the Church? Are his wages duly paid unto him, or who withholdeth the same from him?

II. DO TH he or your Sexton (if there be any such appointed in your Parish) diligently look to the doors of your Church, that they be locked and opened at due time? And doth he keep your Church or Chappel clean from dust, cobwebs, and other annoyance? Doth he toll or ring the Bells at the due accustomed hours before the beginning of Divine Services, Morning and Evening, that the people may be warned to come unto

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the Church; And when any person is passing out of this life, doth he upon notice given him thereof, toll a Bell, as hath been accustomed, that the neighbours may thereby be warned to recommend the dying person to the grace and favour of God?

T I T. VI.

*Concerning Hospitals, Schools, School-masters
Physicians, Chirurgeons, and Midwives.*

I. **IS** there any Hospital, Almshouse, or Free-School founded in your Parish: Who was the Founder, or is now the Patron thereof? And what is the yearly Revenue, or Stipend, belonging to the Governors, or Masters, of the same? Is the same ordered and governed in every respect as it ought to be: and are the Revenues thereof rightly employed, according to the intention of the Founder, and of such grants and ordinances as have been made concerning the same?

II. **DO**TH any man keep a publick or private School in your Parish, who is not allowed thereunto by the Bishop or his Chancellor: Doth your School-master teach his Scholars the Catechism of Religion, set forth by Authority? Doth he cause them upon Sundays and Holy-days, orderly to repair to your Church or Chappel: and see that they behave themselves there quietly and reverently, during the time of Divine Service and Sermon?

III. **DO**TH any man in our Parish, practise Physick, or Chirurgery, or an Woman take upon her to exercise the Office of a Midwife, without approbation and license from the Ordinary?

T I T. VII.

TIT. VII.

Concerning Church-wardens and Side-men

I. **A**RE the Church-wardens of your Parish yearly and duly chosen by the Joynt consent of your Minister and Parishioners: or one of them by your Minister, and the other by the Parishioners?

II. **H**AVE the former and last Church-wardens given up their due Accompts to the Parish, and delivered up to the succeeding Church-wardens the Monies remaining in their hands, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

III. **D**O you the Church-wardens and Side-men take diligent care, and see who of your Parishioners be absent from the Divine Service and Sermon in your Church or Chappel, upon Sundays and Holydaies: And if you find any to have absented themselves without a sufficient cause, do you by warrant from some of the Justices of Peace, levy of them, by way of distress upon their goods, the sum of 12 pence for every such day of their absence, according to the Act of Parliament in that case provided: And do you distribute the several sums so levied, among the poor of your Parish, according to the law?

IV. **D**O you note them that come late to Church after Divine Service is begun, or depart before it be ended? Do you suffer none to stand idle, or talk together in the Church-porch, or to walk in the Church, or Church-yard, during the time of Prayers, Preaching, or other Sacred Offices.

V. **D**O you suffer no mis-behaviour or disorder to be done by men, women, or servants, or children in your Church or Chappel: Are you careful that none of them sit lean, or lay their Hats upon the Communion-Table? Do you permit no Spinners, no Morris dancers, no Dogs, Hatters, or Hounds to be brought or come into your Church, to the disturbance of the Congregation?

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VI. DO you against every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel, provide a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and of good Wine, according to the number of Communicants?

VIII. Have you (the Church-wardens and Side-men) now sworn to give in a true answer unto all these Articles of Inquiry in all their several Articles, taken sufficient time to draw up your presentments, and therein consulted with your Minister for his faithful assistance?

FOR know you assuredly, that as the true discharging of your Office is the chief means whereby publick Disorders, Sins, & Offences in your Parish may be reformed and punished: So if you wilfully refuse to present such crimes and faults as either you know to have been committed, or otherwise have heard of by publick fame; That in such cases, the Bishop and his Officers are to proceed against you, in their Ecclesiasticall Courts, as in Cases of wilful Omission and Perjury.

ROB. OXON.

THE Ministers of every Parish are desired to give in the Names of such of the younger sort, in their several Parishes, as they judge fit to receive Confirmation from the Bishop, and to present them to be confirmed: especially such as having competently learned their Catechism, have not yet received the Holy Communion.

VI. DO you agree that your Committee shall be empowered to receive and accept of any sum of money, or any other thing, for the use of the Association, and to apply the same to the use of the Association, and to do all such other things as may be necessary for the carrying into effect of the objects of the Association?

VII. Do you agree that the Committee shall be empowered to receive and accept of any sum of money, or any other thing, for the use of the Association, and to apply the same to the use of the Association, and to do all such other things as may be necessary for the carrying into effect of the objects of the Association?

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Advertisement to Booksellers.

WHereas *The Four Oxford Cullies*, *Farmers of the press in the Theater.* having run *Themselves* and Porter out of breath, and finding that their ill-shap'd Testaments, &c. will not answer their expectation, they have lately among other things Pirated a certain Book called *Elegantia Poetica*, and offer'd it to Sale for 1 s. 4 d. in Quires:

THis is to give notice, That of the true Proprietors of the Copy, the said Book may be had at 12 d. a single Book in Quires, of a more perfect Edition, having three Sheets more of Matter than the *Oxford* Print.



*Brought downe to Oxford by a London
Bookseller, & dispell these in stationers
shops about 10. march 1679
80.*

Ant. Woolly
1665.

